

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 01047 161252Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 IO-14 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 161130Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5094

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALINOKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 1047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: ISTANBUL ANTI-GREEK PROTEST TAKES PLACE COLORFULLY BUT
WITHOUT VIOLENCE

REF: ISTANBUL 1014 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE "WARNING TO GREECE" PROTEST MEETING ORGANIZED BY
THE TURKISH NATIONAL STUDENT UNION (MTTB) TOOK PLACE AS SHCEDULED
APRIL 13, BUT PASSED WITHOUT VIOLENCE. END SUMMARY

1. AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY THOUSAND HEARD
MTTB PRESIDENT RASIT URPER REITERATE DEMANDS LISTED
REFTEL, AND SAID THAT ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO SEE TURKISH
GENERAL STAFF CHIEF GEN. SANCAR BECOME A "MARSHALL". VARIOUS
GROUPS REPORTEDLY CARRIED BANNERS REMINDING GREEKS OF TURKISH
VICTORY OVER IZMIR IN SEPT. 1922, CALLING FOR THE LIBERATION OF
WESTERN THRACE, AND SEEKING ARMED INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS.
HURRIYET REPORTED THAT ANTI-NATO SLOGANS SUCH AS "IS NATO
GOING TO DETERMINE OUR FOREIGN POLICY" AND "AN HONORABLE FOREIGN
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PAGE 02 ISTANB 01047 161252Z

POLICY" APPEARED IN THE CORWD.

2. IN ADDITION TO SPEECHES CROWD WAS ALSO TREATED TO COLORFUL SPECTACLE OF THE BURSA MEHTER (JANISSARY BAND) PLAYING MARCHES IN JANISSARY REGALIA AND THE BRUNING OF AN EFFIGY OF CYPRUS PRES. MARKARIOS. DESPITE THESE POTENTIALLY PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS, THE DEMONSTRATION ENDED WITHOUT VIOLENCE OR NOTICEABLE POLICE INTERVENTION.

3. COMMENT: IT IS A POSITIVE SIGN THAT POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME WHEN LARGE NUMBER OF GREEKS, ESTIMATED BETWEEN 40 AND 60 THOUSAND, WERE VISITING ISTANBUL OVER EASTER WEEKEND.

4. ONE INTERESTING ASPECT OF RALLY IS APPEARANCE OF SLOGAN "AN HONORABLE FOREIGN POLICY" (HAYSIYETLI BIR DIS POLITIKASI) WHICH WAS A MOTTO OF TURKISH NATIONAL STUDENTS FEDERATION (MTTF), THE LEFTIST ORGANIZATION CLOSED DOWN DURING MARTIAL LAW ERA. THE MTTB, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF ITS PREDOMINANTLY CONSERVATIVE MEMBERSHIP, WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AS AN OFFICIAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION. THE APPEARANCE OF THIS ANTI-NATO THEME IN MTTB PROPAGANDA SUGGESTS ELEMENTS OF LEFT MAY BE SEEKING TO USE THE MTTB'S ANTI-GREEK SENTIMENTS TO FURTHER THE ANTI-NATO, "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" OBJECTIVES OF THE LEFT.
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